

FACSIMILE COVER LETTER

FROM: Eric D. Cohen, Esq.

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TO: Examiner Jacques Veillard

FAX: 703 872 9306

CLIENT/FILE: 83488 (application serial no. 09/929,463)

COMMENTS: Dear Examiner Veillard: this is just to confirm our interview for Wednesday, October 26 at 2:00 pm in your office. We will arrive at the building early and call you shortly before the interview. My cell phone number is 312 286 0960 in case you need to reach me. As I mentioned before, I will be with Mr. Borondoncle, President of the assignee corporate applicant. In that regard, attached is a sheet outlining the general topics of discussion and the main reasons distinguishing the claims over cited references to Weiss and Beal. Best regards, Eric Cohen



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Cohen, Eric D.

From: Francois Lagunas [lagunas@exalead.com]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2005 9:26 AM
To: Francois Bourdoncle
Cc: Florian Douetteau
Subject: Patent

Here are the main points to answer the USPTO examiner :

The examiner claims that our patent is the pure combination of A) Weiss patents (US Pat No 6,321,224) and B) Beall (US Pat No 6,145,003) .

1) Our patent is not A) :

We do not create keyword clusters.

Our computer system provides key phrases that are explicit forms of refinement : the key phrase could be used directly in the query box.

The system is WYSIWYG : the user only select on keyword, and he can understand

2) Unification of full text and meta data

In fact we provide a way of adresssing the lack of categories in some documents sets : we create categories from full text, and we unify full text and meta data (categories).

Another way of saying it is that we provide a "human friendly" way of specifying a subset of documents by transforming text fragments into categories.

This is particularly important on a corpus such as the web, which is not structured (such as for e-commerce), but not totally unstructured (such as raw text).

3) It is not trivial to perform this unification

The system is complete : you can mix categories refinements and keywords refinement, each axis will be automatically updated accordingly.

This can be obtained only if you have a system that is completely unified, and cleverly implemented : synthesis can be very expensive if not done the right way, especially on the key phrase part, because key phrases are much more numerous than available categories.

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François Lagunas
Scientific Director

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